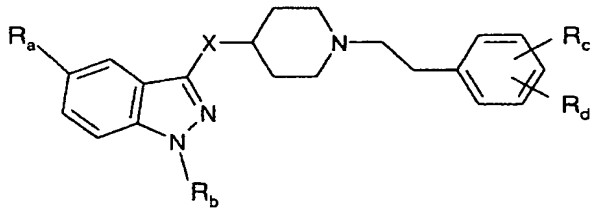
IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): A compound of formula:



(I)

where

X is $C(O)NHCH_2$, NHC(O) or $NHC(O)CH_2$;

R_a is H, $NH_2C(O)$, $CH_3C(O)NH$, CH_3SO_2, CH_3SO_2NH, linear or branched C_1-C_3 alkyl, linear or branched C_1-C_3 alkoxy, or halogen;

R_b is H, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl; aryl-(C_1-C_3)alkyl optionally substituted with 1 or 2 halogen atoms, with a C_1-C_3 alkyl group or a C_1-C_3 alkoxy group;

and in which

a) when X is $C(O)NHCH_2$

R_c is hydroxy, amino, di-(C_1-C_3)alkyl-amino, tri-(C_1-C_3)alkyl-ammoniomethyl, nitro, trifluoromethyl, nitrile, $CH_3C(O)NH$, CH_3SO_2NH, CH_3SO_2, R'R"NSO_2, where R' and R" are H, or a linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl ,

R_d is H, hydroxy, amino, di-(C_1-C_3)alkyl-amino, tri-(C_1-C_3)alkylammoniomethyl, nitro, trifluoromethyl, nitrile, $CH_3C(O)NH$, CH_3SO_2NH, CH_3SO_2, R'R"NSO_2, where R' and R" have the meanings stated above,

with the proviso, however, that when R_a and R_d are both H, and R_b is isopropyl, then R_c is not hydroxy;

b) when X is NHC(O) or $NHC(O)CH_2$

R_c and R_d, which may be equal or different, are H, hydroxy, C_1-C_3 alkoxy, halogen, amino, di-(C_1-C_3)alkylamino, tri-(C_1-C_3)alkylammoniomethyl, nitro, trifluoromethyl, nitrile, $CH_3C(O)NH$, CH_3SO_2NH, CH_3SO_2, R'R"NSO_2, where R' and R" have the meanings stated above,

and their acid addition salts with pharmaceutically acceptable organic and inorganic acids.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The compound according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein R_a is H or C_1-C_3 alkyl.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The compound according to claim 1, wherein ~~or 2, characterized in that~~ R_b is H or C_1-C_3 alkyl.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The compound according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 3, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein R_c is H, NO_2, NH_2, OH or C_1-C_3 alkoxy.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The compound according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 4, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein R_d is H.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): An acid addition salt of a compound according to ~~any one of the claims 1 to 5, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the acid is at least one selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of oxalic, maleic, methanesulphonic, paratoluenesulphonic, succinic, citric, tartaric, lactic, hydrochloric, phosphoric and sulphuric acid.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is N((1-(2-(4-nitrophenyl)ethyl)-4-piperidinyl)methyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide and the pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts thereof.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is N((1-(2-(4-nitrophenyl)ethyl)-4-piperidinyl)methyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide hydrochloride.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is N((1-(2-(4-aminophenyl)ethyl)-4-piperidinyl)methyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide and the pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts thereof.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is N((1-(2-(4-aminophenyl)ethyl)-4-piperidinyl)methyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide dihydrochloride.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is N((1-(2-(4-nitrophenyl)ethyl)-4-piperidinyl)methyl)-1-(1-methylethyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide and the pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts thereof.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is N((1-(2-(4-nitrophenyl)ethyl)-4-piperidinyl)methyl)-1-(1-methylethyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide oxalate.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is N((1-(2-(4-aminophenyl)ethyl)-4-piperidinyl)methyl)-1-(1-methylethyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide and the pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts thereof.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is N((1-(2-(4-aminophenyl)ethyl)-4-piperidinyl)methyl)-1-(1-methylethyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide dihydrochloride.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is N-(1-methyl-1H-indazol-3-yl)-1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidine-4-carboxamide and the pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts thereof.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is N-(1-methyl-1H-indazol-3-yl)-1-(2-phenylethyl)piperidine-4-carboxamide hydrochloride.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is N-(1-methyl-1H-indazol-3-yl)-1-(2-(4-methoxyphenyl)ethyl)piperidine-4-carboxamide and the pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts thereof.

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is N-(1-methyl-1H-indazol-3-yl)-1-(2-(4-methoxyphenyl)ethyl)piperidine-4-carboxamide hydrochloride.

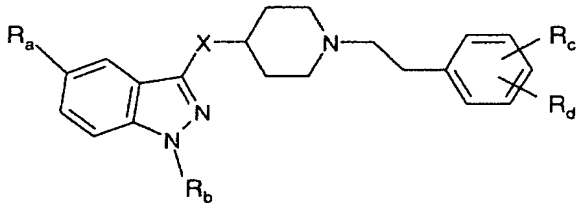
Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is N-(1-methyl-1H-indazol-3-yl)-1-(2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl)piperidine-4-carboxamide and the pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts thereof.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is N-(1-methyl-1H-indazol-3-yl)-1-(2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl)piperidine-4-carboxamide hydrochloride.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is N((1-(2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl)-4-piperidinyl)methyl)-5-methyl-1-(1-methylethyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide and the pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts thereof.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is N((1-(2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl)-4-piperidinyl)methyl)-5-methyl-1-(1-methylethyl)-1H-indazole-3-carboxamide hydrochloride.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): A method for preparing a compound of formula (I)



(I)

and its acid addition salts with pharmaceutically acceptable organic or inorganic acids,

where

X is $C(O)NHCH_2$;

R_a is H, $NH_2C(O)$, $CH_3C(O)NH$, CH_3SO_2, CH_3SO_2NH, linear or branched C_1-C_3 alkyl, linear or branched C_1-C_3 alkoxy, or halogen;

R_b is H, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl; aryl-(C_1-C_3)alkyl optionally substituted with 1 or 2 halogen atoms, with a C_1-C_3 alkyl group or a C_1-C_3 alkoxy group;

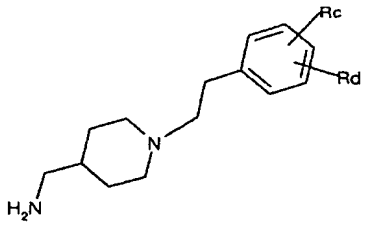
R_c is hydroxy, amino, di-(C_1-C_3)alkyl-amino, tri-(C_1-C_3)alkylammoniomethyl, nitro, trifluoromethyl, nitrile, $CH_3C(O)NH$, CH_3SO_2NH, CH_3SO_2, R'R"NSO_2, where R' and R" are H, or a linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl ,

R_d is H, hydroxy, amino, di-(C_1-C_3)alkyl-amino, tri-(C_1-C_3)alkylammoniomethyl, nitro, trifluoromethyl, nitrile, $CH_3C(O)NH$, CH_3SO_2NH, CH_3SO_2, R'R"NSO_2, where R' and R" have the meanings stated above,

with the proviso, however, that when R_a and R_d are both H, and R_b is isopropyl, then R_c is not hydroxy;

~~characterized in that it~~ wherein the method comprises the following stages:

a) reaction of an amine of formula (II)

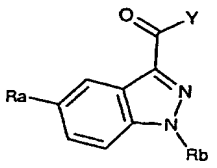


(II)

where

R_c and R_d have the same meanings as stated above or, when R_c or R_d is an amino or alcoholic group, R_c and R_d may be an amino or alcoholic group protected by a conventional protective group,

with a derivative of an indazole-carboxylic acid of formula (IIIa)



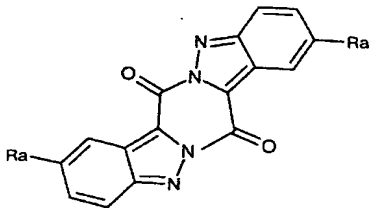
(IIIa)

where

R_a and R_b have the meanings stated above, and

Y is a Cl or Br atom, or a group OR or OC(O)R, where R is a linear or branched alkyl having 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

or with a derivative of an indazole-carboxylic acid of formula (IIIb)



(IIIb)

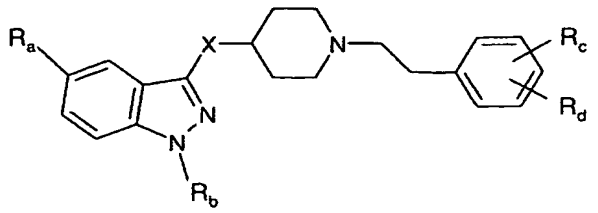
where

R_a has the meanings stated above,

b) cleavage of any possible protective group of the aforesaid amino or alcoholic group, and

c) optional formation of an acid addition salt of the indazolamide of formula (I) with a pharmaceutically acceptable organic or inorganic acid.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): A method of preparation a compound of formula (I)



(I)

and the pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts thereofwith organic or inorganic acids,

where

X is NHC(O) or $NHC(O)CH_2$;

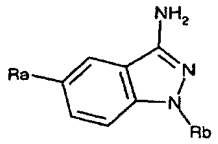
R_a is H, $NH_2C(O)$, $CH_3C(O)NH$, CH_3SO_2, CH_3SO_2NH, linear or branched C_1-C_3 alkyl, linear or branched C_1-C_3 alkoxy, or halogen;

R_b is H, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl; aryl-(C_1-C_3)alkyl optionally substituted with 1 or 2 halogen atoms, with a C_1-C_3 alkyl group or a C_1-C_3 alkoxy group;

R_c and R_d, which may be equal or different, are H, hydroxy, C_1-C_3 alkoxy, halogen, amino, di-(C_1-C_3)alkylamino, tri-(C_1-C_3)alkylammoniomethyl, nitro, trifluoromethyl, nitrile, $CH_3C(O)NH$, CH_3SO_2NH, CH_3SO_2, R'R"NSO_2, where R' and R" are H, or linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl,

~~characterized in that it~~ wherein the method comprises the following stages:

a') reaction of an amine of formula (IV)

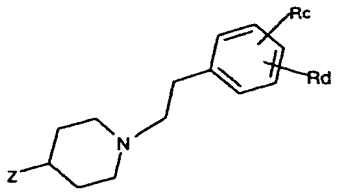


(IV)

where

R_a and R_b have the meanings stated above,

is condensed with a derivative of a carboxylic acid of formula (V)



(V)

where

R_c and R_d have the same meanings as stated above or, when R_c or R_d is an amino or alcoholic group, R_c and R_d may be an amino or alcoholic group protected by a protective group of conventional type, and

Z is a group C(O)Y or $CH_2C(O)Y$ in which Y is a Cl or Br atom, or an OR or OC(O)R group, where R is a linear or branched alkyl having from 1 to 6 carbon atoms,

b') cleavage of any possible protective group of the aforesaid amino or alcoholic group, and

c') optional formation of a salt of acid addition of the indazolamide of formula (I) with a pharmaceutically acceptable organic or inorganic acid.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method according to claim 23, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein stage (a) is carried out by reacting a compound of formula (II) with a compound of formula (IIIa) in which Y is chlorine, or with a compound of formula (IIIb) in the presence of a suitable diluent and at a temperature of from 0 to 140°C for a time of from 0.5 to 20 hours.

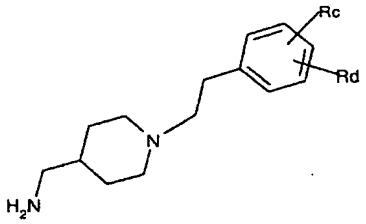
Claim 26 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method according to claim 24, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein stage (a') is carried out by reacting a compound of formula (IV) with a compound of formula (V) in which Y is chlorine in the presence of a suitable diluent and at a temperature of from 0 to 140°C for a time of from 0.5 to 20 hours.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method according to claim 25, wherein ~~or 26, characterized in that~~ the reaction temperature is of from 15 to 40°C.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method according to claim 25, wherein ~~or 26, characterized in that~~ the reaction time is of from 1 to 18 hours.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): [[A]] The method according to ~~any one of the claims from 25 to 28, characterized in that~~ claim 25, wherein the diluent is ~~an~~ at least one aprotic diluent selected from the group ~~comprising~~ consisting of toluene, dimethylformamide and dimethylsulphoxide.

Claim 30 (Original): An intermediate of formula (II)



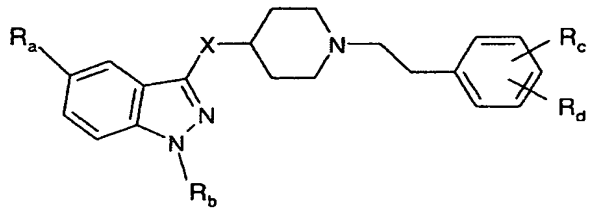
(II)

where

R_c is hydroxy, amino, di-(C_1-C_3)alkyl-amino, tri-(C_1-C_3)alkyl-ammoniomethyl, nitro, trifluoromethyl, nitrile, $CH_3C(O)NH$, CH_3SO_2NH, CH_3SO_2, R'R"NSO_2, where R' and R" are H, or linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl,

R_d is H, hydroxy, amino, di-(C_1-C_3)alkyl-amino, tri-(C_1-C_3)alkylammoniomethyl, nitro, trifluoromethyl, nitrile, $CH_3C(O)NH$, CH_3SO_2NH, CH_3SO_2, R'R"NSO_2, where R' and R" have the meanings stated above.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): A pharmaceutical composition ~~containing~~ comprising an effective amount of a compound of formula (I):



(I)

where

X is $C(O)NHCH_2$, $NHC(O)$ or $NHC(O)CH_2$;

R_a is H, $NH_2C(O)$, $CH_3C(O)NH$, CH_3SO_2, CH_3SO_2NH, linear or branched C_1-C_3 alkyl, linear or branched C_1-C_3 alkoxy, or halogen;

R_b is H, linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl; aryl-(C_1-C_3)alkyl optionally substituted with 1 or 2 halogen atoms, with a C_1-C_3 alkyl group or a C_1-C_3 alkoxy group;

and in which

a) when X is $C(O)NHCH_2$

R_c is hydroxy, amino, di-(C_1-C_3)alkyl-amino, tri-(C_1-C_3)alkylammoniomethyl, nitro, trifluoromethyl, nitrile, $CH_3C(O)NH$, CH_3SO_2NH, CH_3SO_2, R'R"NSO_2, where R' and R" are H, or a linear or branched C_1-C_6 alkyl ,

R_d is H, hydroxy, amino, di-(C_1-C_3)alkyl-amino, tri-(C_1-C_3)alkylammoniomethyl, nitro, trifluoromethyl, nitrile, $CH_3C(O)NH$, CH_3SO_2NH, CH_3SO_2, R'R"NSO_2, where R' and R" have the meanings stated above,

with the proviso, however, that when R_a and R_d are both H, and R_b is isopropyl, then R_c is not hydroxy;

b) when X is $NHC(O)$ or $NHC(O)CH_2$

R_c and R_d, which may be equal or different, are H, hydroxy, C_1-C_3 alkoxy, halogen, amino, di-(C_1-C_3)alkylamino, tri-(C_1-C_3)alkylammoniomethyl, nitro, trifluoromethyl, nitrile, $CH_3C(O)NH$, CH_3SO_2NH, CH_3SO_2, R'R"NSO_2, where R' and R" have the meanings stated above,

or of a pharmaceutically acceptable addition salt thereof with an organic or inorganic acid, and

at least one pharmaceutically acceptable inert ingredient.

Claim 32 (Canceled).

Claim 33 (New): The method according to claim 26, wherein the reaction temperature is of from 15 to 40°C.

Claim 34 (New): The method according to claim 26, wherein the reaction time is of from 1 to 18 hours.

Claim 35 (New): The method according to claim 26, wherein the diluent is at least one aprotic diluent selected from the group consisiting of toluene, dimethylformamide and dimethylsulphoxide.